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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

**REPORT ON THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION
(16 to 18 September 2002)**

SUMMARY

The Committee stressed the importance of linking the priorities identified in the Habitat Agenda, in the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as in the Millennium Declaration with its programme of work. It also discussed the need to strengthen further the social and economic aspects of human settlements and to address poverty alleviation in the region. The Committee held an in-depth discussion on social housing and decided to draw up guidelines and to organize two workshops in the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation on the topic. The Committee adopted its 2002-2005 programme of work, confirmed the high priority of the country profile programme for the housing sector, as well as the activities related to land administration, and welcomed the revision of data collected for the statistical bulletin. The Committee highly commended the Guidelines on condominium ownership of housing. It recommended their translation into national languages for wide dissemination among municipalities and housing associations in countries in transition and invited countries to implement them. The Committee approved the report of the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research held in Leeds (United Kingdom) in June 2002. The Committee appreciated the activities of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network, in particular in initiating the study on housing finance systems, approved the Network's terms of reference and expressed support for closer cooperation between the Network and Committee's Bureau.

Introduction

1. The Committee on Human Settlements held its sixty-third session in Geneva from 16 to 18 September 2002. Mrs. D. Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic) chaired the meeting.
2. Representatives of the following countries participated: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and Yugoslavia.
3. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Council of Europe were represented.
4. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended: International Council of Women (ICW); International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP); International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI); International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP); International Union of Tenants (IUT); and World Fire Statistics Centre.
5. The members of the Committee's Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network also attended.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The provisional agenda (ECE/HBP/126) was adopted.

II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE OF RELEVANCE TO THE COMMITTEE

7. The Committee took note of the Commission's decisions taken at its fifty-seventh session (7 to 10 May 2002) related to the principal subsidiary bodies and to the UNECE secretariat's self-assessment "Strengthening the Organization".
8. The Committee stressed the importance of linking the priorities identified in the Habitat Agenda, in the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as in the Millennium Declaration with its programme of work. The Committee discussed the further need to strengthen the social and economic aspects of human settlements and to address poverty alleviation in the region.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION AND THE ECE STRATEGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE 21st CENTURY

A. **In-depth discussion on social/affordable housing - a new challenge for the ECE countries**

9. The discussion was chaired by Mr. M. Lujanen (Finland) and moderated by Ms. A. Nedomova (Czech Republic), who presented the discussion paper (HBP/2002/3).

10. Following the decision of the Bureau, the in-depth discussion focused on social housing. The purpose was to address the main issues in social housing at all levels, to share experience and best practices among ECE member countries, and to agree on priority directions and on possible future activities. The following delegations contributed case studies: Austria, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

11. During the discussion national experiences were illustrated and common concerns highlighted. Delegations expressed the need for a definition of social housing, as countries had a different understanding of the concept. In some countries social housing usually referred to rental housing, while in others owner-occupied housing also fell in the category of social housing. The delegates also observed a difference in the needs for social housing between the Western countries and the countries in transition. While Western countries had more social housing available, many countries in transition still needed social housing for a vast number of households. A thorough identification of the target groups and a comprehensive assessment of their needs, while taking into account the culture and traditions of individual countries, were seen as the first steps to a successful social housing policy.

12. The following conclusions were drawn:

- (a) It is necessary to agree on a common definition of social housing for all ECE countries as a basis for a common understanding and international comparison;
- (b) Statistical data and information on social housing should be made available to enable countries to formulate clear national policies and to strengthen international cooperation;
- (c) Exchange of experience in the form of "best practices" should be encouraged.

13. The Committee discussed the suggested topics for next year's in-depth discussion:

- (a) urban life and population ageing; and
- (b) housing policies to support workers' mobility.

14. The Committee welcomed the proposals of the delegations of the Czech Republic to organize a workshop on social housing in Prague in spring 2003 and of the Russian Federation to organize a workshop on social housing in the context of internal and international migration in Moscow or St-Petersburg in 2003.

15. The Committee agreed to:

- (a) Prepare guidelines on social housing;
- (b) Organize a workshop on social housing in spring 2003 (Prague), as a first step in

the preparation of the guidelines; and a second workshop in the Russian Federation in late 2003;

- (c) Establish a task force for the preparation of the guidelines;
- (d) Invite interested delegations to designate experts to the task force and send their names and addresses to the secretariat;
- (e) Invite all delegations to send to the secretariat additional proposals for topics for the Committee's in-depth discussion at its sixty-fourth session in September 2003;
- (f) Invite its Bureau to consider all proposals and decide on the topic at its first meeting in 2003.

B. Country profiles on the housing sector

16. The secretariat presented the ongoing work to finalize the study on Albania and prepare the study on Armenia, and invited the reviewed countries to report on how they intended to implement the studies' recommendations.

17. The delegations of Albania, Romania and the Republic of Moldova reported on the results of the country profiles in their countries, including on the implementation of the recommendations. A round-table discussion on progress achieved in implementing housing policies since the study was finalized will be held in Bucharest from 15 to 18 October 2002. The delegations of Armenia and the Russian Federation informed the Committee of the preparations for the country profile studies in their countries scheduled for 2002-2003. The delegation of Ukraine confirmed its interest in having a study carried out in Ukraine.

18. In the ensuing discussion delegations expressed their satisfaction with the reviewed countries' preparations and the streamlined pre-mission and review mission, as carried out for the studies on the Republic of Moldova and Albania. The Committee concluded that the organizational framework was satisfactory and that further attention should be given to speeding up the publication of the studies.

19. The Committee agreed to:

- (a) Give emphasis to the country profile follow-up activity carried out by the reviewed countries to assess the impact of the recommendations and to understand where and what kind of additional expertise was needed;
- (b) Request the countries to be reviewed in the future, to actively participate in the preparation of analytical materials related to each of the chapters of the study. This needed to be done well in advance of the review mission to enable the international experts to be better informed and prepared for the mission;
- (c) Following the proposal of the representative of UNMIK, to undertake activities related to emergency housing needs with a specific focus on the return of refugees and displaced persons in selected countries of the Stability Pact area, provided additional resources are available, by carrying out a study based on the ECE country profile studies on the housing sector experience.

20. The Committee furthermore:

- (a) Welcomed the proposal of the delegation of Romania to organize a round-table discussion as a follow-up to the country profile study;
- (b) Approved the preliminary preparation for the study in Armenia, as presented by the secretariat;
- (c) Decided that preparations for the study in the Russian Federation could start soon, in order to have the pre-mission in the spring of 2003, and to adjust the study in view of the diversity and complexity of the issues within the housing sector in the country.

C. Improvement of urban environmental performance

21. The secretariat reported on the results of the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, held in Geneva on 5 July 2002. The Meeting had adopted the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP). The following priority areas and actions constituted its policy framework: (a) integration of environmental and health aspects into transport policy; (b) demand-side management and modal shift; (c) urban transport; (d) cross-cutting issues. The Programme's implementation was the responsibility of the Steering Committee on Transport, Environment and Health, which would meet annually. This Steering Committee would liaise and cooperate closely with relevant UNECE principal subsidiary bodies such as the Committee on Human Settlements and the Committee on Environmental Policy. The Steering Committee may establish ad hoc working groups, task forces and other bodies as needed to implement concrete activities.

22. The Committee:

- (a) Took note of the information and decided to consider cooperation on issues of mutual interest within THE PEP;
- (b) Welcomed the proposal of the delegation of Cyprus to organize a workshop on land use and urban transport in its country in 2003, to be carried out together with the Steering Committee on Transport, Environment and Health.

D. Land registration and land markets

23. Mr. B. Kjellson (Sweden), Chairperson of the Working Party on Land Administration, reported on progress in its activities since the previous session of the Committee and on the results of the second session of the Working Party held in November 2001 (HBP/WP.7/2001/10). He also reported on the need to strengthen cooperation between the Working Party on Land Administration and the Real Estate Advisory Group (REAG), to achieve results beneficial for both the public and private sectors.

24. The delegations of Armenia and the Russian Federation reported on the results of the workshops held in Erevan on land registration (October 2001) and in Moscow on mass valuation of land (June 2002). The delegation of the Russian Federation also presented the results of the study on legislation in regard to restrictions on landownership in the ECE region. The objective of the study was to achieve a better understanding of the present legal framework in the ECE

region. Access to land and real property, financing, leasing, transferring and buying of land and real property were recognized as essential features of a market economy based on private land and property ownership. However, restrictions still existed in some countries.

25. In response to the invitation of the Commission to its principal subsidiary bodies to consider issues related to security, the Committee held an in-depth discussion on land administration for economic security and sustainable development in Europe. The Chairman of the Working Party presented the discussion paper on this topic (HBP/2002/4). New State borders in Europe, the illegal occupation of land and land disputes could become sources of conflict between individuals, ethnic groups and nations. Good land administration systems could prevent disputes, protect State land and land tenure for ethnic minorities, and possibly help to prevent international conflicts.

26. The Committee took note of the progress made, adopted the report of the second session of the Working Party, and endorsed its programme of work.

E. Housing modernization and management

ECE guidelines on housing condominiums

27. Mr. G. Gundersen, consultant, presented the Guidelines on condominium ownership of housing, prepared in cooperation with the reference group (ECE/HBP/123). He also presented a discussion paper on the practical implementation of condominium ownership in countries in transition (HBP/2002/6). Mr. W. Förster (Austria) moderated the discussion. The delegation of the Russian Federation presented a case study (HBP/2002/7).

28. In the ensuing discussion it was stressed that the large-scale privatization of housing in countries in transition had led to a large proportion of new owners with little disposable income, and that the combination of low-income owners and the need for investment in the operation, maintenance and repair of the run-down housing stock was not sustainable in the medium or longer term. Condominiums and owners' associations needed an active State and municipal support to be successful. State support was particularly needed in relation to financial and taxation issues. The legal imbalance between condominium owners' rights and obligations in some countries represented a threat to the success of condominium ownership. A clear understanding of the rights and obligations required also considerable information, professional skills and training. Dissemination of the guidelines at the local level, among municipalities, housing associations and individual homeowners, was essential.

29. The Committee:

(a) Commended the work of Mr. G. Gundersen and the reference group in preparation of the guidelines;

(b) Invited countries in transition to translate the guidelines into their national languages and disseminate them among all municipalities and housing associations; and make the guidelines available on their national housing ministries' web sites.

Housing finance systems

30. Mr. H. Pfeiffer (Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network) presented the project proposal for the study on private housing finance systems for countries in transition (HBP/2002/8). Mr. L. Müllender, consultant, reported on the practical arrangements for the study.

31. In the ensuing discussion, it was stressed that the objective of the study was to assist countries in making a choice among the major existing financial systems. It was recommended that the study should address the existing privatized housing stock and its financing as well as public housing finance systems (not only private housing finance).

32. The Committee:

- (a) Adopted the organization of work for the preparation of the guidelines and the composition of the steering group for the project (annex II);
- (b) Agreed to rename the study "Guidelines on housing finance systems".

Colloquium on housing cooperatives

33. The Colloquium on housing cooperatives organized jointly by UNECE, UN-HABITAT and the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) had been held in Ankara (Turkey) in the summer of 2002. Ms. D. Andoni (Albania), who had chaired the UNECE session on the Role of cooperatives in the management, maintenance and revitalization of the housing stock, reported on the results of discussions.

34. The participants had discussed the legal and institutional as well as cultural aspects of cooperatives, and the different ways of setting up cooperatives and their functioning. They had stressed the importance of raising the awareness of co-owners about their rights and duties. The different understanding of housing cooperatives and housing condominiums had also been discussed. The management experience of cooperatives could be used as an organizational and managerial tool for housing condominiums.

35. The Committee:

- (a) Noted with appreciation the good cooperation between UN-HABITAT, ICA and ECE in this regard;
- (b) Agreed that there was a strong link between social housing and housing cooperatives, and that this link should be taken into account when carrying out activities on social housing and on country profiles on the housing sector.

F. Human settlements statistics

36. The secretariat presented an analysis of the data available for the ECE Bulletin on Housing Statistics as well as possible actions to streamline the preparation and presentation of housing and building statistics for the ECE countries.

37. The delegation of Finland reported that the meeting of EU Housing Ministers had formed

a group of experts to look into the distribution of tasks regarding statistics, the content of publications on statistics, and the collection, consistency and comparability of data. This group would include representatives from Member States of the European Union and Eurostat, and it was desirable that UNECE should also participate. He highlighted that data collected for the "Housing Statistics in the European Union" were needed for policy analysis and decision-making. He also stressed the need for policy-oriented data to monitor housing policy implementation. Particular attention should be paid to the division of labour and cooperation between ECE, EU and Eurostat as well as to the ways data were collected. It was suggested that the secretariat should organize, together with the ECE Statistical Division, a consultation on housing statistics in Europe with experts from interested countries and organizations.

38. The Committee invited interested delegations to send to the secretariat information on additional data to be collected and needed for housing policy purposes and indicate their interest in participating in the consultation.

39. The Committee agreed to:

(a) Organize a consultation in cooperation with the Conference of European Statisticians and with Eurostat to review the data collected and to consider further which statistical data were needed for housing policy purposes and to coordinate better the work carried out in the region;

(b) Request the secretariat to prepare a concrete proposal on streamlining the Bulletin for its next session in 2003.

40. A representative of the World Fire Statistics Centre presented the annual report on fire costs statistics.

G. Major trends characterizing human settlements

41. The delegation of the United Kingdom presented the results of the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research on "Sustainable and Liveable Cities" held in Leeds (United Kingdom) from 9 to 12 June 2002 and the issues put forward by the Conference for further research. In particular, he reported on the study tour which had preceded the Conference and had looked at the economic redevelopment in central Leeds and provided examples of the revitalization of the historical fabric in Leeds and Bradford (United Kingdom).

42. The Committee:

(a) Endorsed the report of the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research (HBP/SEM.53/2) and expressed its thanks to the delegation of the United Kingdom for the excellent organization of the Conference;

(b) Welcomed the offer of the delegation of Slovakia to organize and host the tenth Conference on Urban and Regional Research in its country.

H. Programme of work

43. The Committee adopted its programme of work for 2002-2005 (annex I), and its tentative list of meetings (annex III).

V. WORK OF THE BUREAU AND THE REPORT OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY NETWORK

44. Mrs. D. Grabmüllerová reported on the work of the Bureau since the previous session of the Committee.

45. Mr. G. Gundersen, Chairman of the Network, presented its progress report (HBP/2002/5). He stressed the role of the Network in the practical implementation of the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century and outlined changes to be made to the Network's terms of reference.

46. It was agreed that the Bureau and the Committee should be closely involved in the Network, allowing the Network to directly participate in the Bureau's meetings. The need to include more representatives of NGOs in the Network was also stressed.

47. The Committee approved the work of the Bureau and the report of the Network, including its revised terms of reference (annex IV).

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

48. The Committee expressed its thanks to the delegations of the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and to the Norwegian State Housing Bank and the European Federation of Building Societies for their contributions to the ECE Trust Fund on Human Settlements.

49. The Committee amended the second sentence of its terms of reference (ECE/HBP/122, annex IV, para. 1) to read as follows It acts in full conformity with the principles, commitments and global plan of action of the Habitat Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996, the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, adopted by the General Assembly in June 2001, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2002, and subject to the general supervision and relevant decisions of the Economic Commission for Europe.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

50. The Committee elected its new Bureau as follows: Ms. Elena Szolgayova (Slovakia), Chairperson; Ms. Doris Andoni (Albania); Mr. Wolfgang Förster (Austria), Ms. Daniela Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic); Mr. Hubert van Eyk (Netherlands), Mr. Marek Zawislak (Poland) and Mr. B. Kjellson (Sweden).

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2002-2005

SUBPROGRAMME 10 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

10.1.1 Country profiles on the housing sector

Description: The housing sector has a critical role to play in ensuring the success of economic and social development in the ECE region and the reform process in countries in transition. At the same time, the process of transition to a market economy has had a profound impact on housing policy implementation and management. This project represents a tool for Governments to analyse their housing policies, strategies, institutional and financial frameworks for the housing sector and to compare the progress made internationally. The country profile is a process-oriented exercise. At its core is an analytical study on the housing sector, drafted by independent international experts. It draws on the Committee's work on housing and building statistics. Recommendations for improving policies and practices are an essential part of the programme. It also aims to provide information to potential investors.

Work accomplished: The country profiles on the housing sector of Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Romania and the Republic of Moldova have been published. The study for Albania is in preparation. A roster of international experts was established and updated. Recently the Committee streamlined the preparatory process and proposed procedures to monitor the implementation of recommendations. The country profile project is presented on the Committee's web site (<http://www.unece.org/env/hs/cph>).

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will continue its activities for the preparation of country profiles on the housing sector. In the autumn of 2002, work will start on a study on Armenia and soon afterwards on a study on the Russian Federation. Further workshops or ad hoc meetings of experts will be held to discuss the results of policy implementation as a follow-up to the studies' recommendations and to provide additional expertise in specific areas where needed. The delegation of Romania will organize the first follow-up activity in October 2002. Cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union and the World Bank will be maintained and strengthened. The Committee may also undertake (subject to the availability of additional financial resources) activities related to emergency housing needs in selected countries of the Stability Pact area in the context of the country profile programme.

Duration: 2002 - 2005.

10.1.2 Improvement of urban environmental performance

Description: Local systems and cities are efficient starting points for promoting sustainable consumption patterns. Numerous initiatives have already been launched in cities and towns to raise public awareness of the environmental impact of individual consumption behaviour, to

promote environmentally sound goods, services and sustainable use of energy, water, raw materials and land by individuals and communities. It is recognized that environmentally sound urban and regional transport coordinated with sustainable land use and planning at the central, regional and local levels may lead to a substantial reduction in the impact on human health, natural resources and the environment, while improving the quality of life and economic performance. Integration of land use and local transport policies requires integrated thinking and action across all policy areas and at all levels of decision-making.

Work accomplished: As a follow-up to the workshop on encouraging local initiatives towards sustainable consumption patterns (Vienna, February 1998) a joint steering group on urban transport patterns and land-use planning was established. The steering group prepared a detailed work programme (HBP/2000/8) developed in view of a workshop scheduled initially for 2001 but postponed.

Work to be undertaken: The delegation of Cyprus will organize a workshop on land-use and urban transport in 2003. The workshop will address practical experience in the environmentally sound management of urban transport integrated with sustainable land-use planning. Based on the workshop's results, the preparation of guidelines will be considered.

Duration: 2002 - 2004.

10.1.3 Land registration and land markets

Description: Proper land registration is crucial for security of tenure and property rights, effective housing policies and the promotion of market-oriented reforms in economies in transition, as well as in the context of European integration. The activity is aimed at providing assistance to countries in transition in reforming cadastre and land registration systems and sharing information and experience of modernizing land administration systems in the developed market economies through education and training; research and development; exchange of experience; transfer of technology; and standardization.

Work accomplished: The inventory of land administration systems in Europe and North America was published in 1999 and the study on key aspects of land registration and cadastre legislation was prepared and published with the assistance of HM Land Registry (United Kingdom). The study on land mass valuation systems for taxation purposes in Europe was prepared and published with the assistance of the federal Land Cadastre Service of the Russian Federation. Four workshops were held: on EU accession from a land administration perspective (Gävle, Sweden, June 2001), on modern land cadastre (Armenia, October 2001), on mass valuation systems of land (Russian Federation, June 2002), and on cooperation in land administration, customers and services (Austria, September 2002). An international team of land administration experts undertook country reviews on Armenia and Georgia. The second session of the Working Party took place in November 2001.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Land Administration will promote the practical application of the ECE Land Administration Guidelines (ECE/HBP/96) in countries in transition,

inter alia, through different types of operational activities in these countries. A land administration review will be carried out in the Russian Federation in November 2002. Three studies, namely a survey of the current structure of landownership and existing legislation to restrict/limit the sale of property in ECE countries, guidelines on legal and cadastral objects and their identifiers, and guidelines on public access to data, are being prepared. In 2003 workshops are planned in the United Kingdom and Greece. The third session of the Working Party on Land Administration will take place in Geneva on 17-18 November 2003. Cooperation with key partners, such as the World Bank, will be further developed.

Duration: 2002 - 2005.

10.1.4 Housing modernization and management

Description: This activity provides an opportunity to look in detail at urban regeneration policies and at the existing and emerging housing problems, especially regarding housing financing, the existing housing stock and its management. As a result of the privatisation process in countries in transition, the proportion of owner-occupied dwellings in multi-family housing has increased considerably. It is therefore important to establish property rights, define mixed ownership, analyse legal conditions of condominiums, their organizational and management frameworks.

Work accomplished: The ECE Guidelines on Housing Condominiums were prepared and will be published in 2003 (ECE/HBP/123). The Colloquium on housing cooperatives was organized jointly by UNECE, UN-HABITAT and the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) in Ankara (Turkey) in June 2002.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee and its Bureau will study ways to promote the practical application of the Guidelines on Housing Condominiums and ensure their wide dissemination in countries in transition. The Committee will start a project based on a proposal prepared by the Advisory Network for guidelines on housing finance systems for countries in transition. The place and role of major housing finance systems will be identified and the focus will be on the requirements for the introduction of selected models. The Committee will also start a project on social housing guidelines taking into account the strong links between social housing and housing cooperatives. A workshop on social housing will be organized in the Czech Republic (spring 2003) as a first step in the preparation of the guidelines on social housing. A second workshop will be organized in the Russian Federation on the same topic towards the end of 2003.

Duration: 2002 - 2005.

10.1.5 Development of human settlements statistics

Description: The Committee, together with the Conference of European Statisticians, develops and improves international human settlements statistics, and publishes the Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America every two years.

Work accomplished: The Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America was published in 2000. The human settlements statistics web site (<http://www.uncece.org/env/hs/bulletin/>) has been updated with data for 2001.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will prepare the next issue of the Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America to be available on the Web in 2003. The Committee will also consult the ECE Conference of European Statisticians and Eurostat in an effort to review the data collected, to further consider which statistical data are needed for housing policy purposes and to better coordinate its work with that of the EU.

Duration: 2002 - 2005.

10.1.6 Major trends characterizing human settlements development

Description: The development of human settlements encompasses a wide range of changes and trends which are not always compatible with the principles of sustainability. More knowledge of the forces influencing the configuration of urban development and the characteristics of the implementation of urban policies will be provided by studying major trends characterizing human settlements development and presenting national experiences in formulating and implementing policies for a more sustainable development of human settlements.

Work accomplished: The Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research took place in Leeds (United Kingdom) on 9-12 June 2002. The main topic was sustainable and liveable cities. Three themes were discussed: (i) urban society and economy: towards social equity through effective planning policies and tools - A behavioural perspective; (ii) improving urban performance: urban structure and ecosystems; (iii) governance and urban organization: integrated decision-making.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will start consultations with the Slovak delegation and the Bureau to establish the topic, venue and date for the next conference on urban and regional research to be held in Slovakia. A new issue of the study on human settlements trends in the ECE countries will be prepared. The Committee will continue the exchange of experience in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Declaration, and will consider the priority areas of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in the context of its programme activities.

Duration: 2002 - 2005.

Annex II

COMPOSITION OF THE STEERING GROUP
(Guidelines on housing finance systems)

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Annex IIITENTATIVE LIST OF MEETINGS^{*/}Meetings

15-17 September 2003	Geneva	Sixty-fourth session of the Committee on Human Settlements
17-18 November 2003	Geneva	Third session of the Working Party on Land Administration

^{*/} Bureau meetings, workshops, task force meetings and other informal consultations are not listed.

Annex IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF
THE HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY NETWORK

The Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements consists of experts from the private sector, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, research institutions dealing with housing, planning and land administration, and local authorities. On the recommendation of the Advisory Network, the Bureau of the Committee on Human Settlements invites these experts to become members of the Network in their personal capacity. The Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network shall work in close cooperation with the secretariat and the Committee's Bureau and participate in its meetings. The objectives of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network are to:

- (a) Identify strategic issues of importance to the Committee's programme of work and assess the priorities of this programme of work, taking due account of the resources available and the need for efficiency gains;
- (b) Identify areas within the Committee's Strategy where transfer of information and know-how between ECE member countries is important for the implementation of specific human settlements policies. Advise on possible ways to facilitate such transfer;
- (c) Advise the Committee and ECE member States on the implementation of strategies and specific activities to ensure maximum practical results in member countries in the implementation of the Committee's Strategy;
- (d) Expand the contacts of the Committee, the Bureau and the secretariat with regional financial institutions, lender and donor organizations, NGOs and the business community so as to make the Committee's activities and its assistance to the member countries more efficient;
- (e) Submit to the Committee an annual progress report based on these terms of reference.

The Network's activities will not have any financial implications for the United Nations.